

**LANTERN**  
COMMUNICATIONS

# What de we mean by “Fair”?

**IEEE 802.17**

**March 12-14, 2001**

Nader Vije

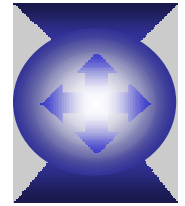
nader@lanterncom.com

Harry Peng

hpeng@nortelnetworks.com

# Media Access Control Protocol

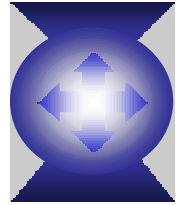
---



- ◆ Ethernet MAC is (was) CSMA/CD **NOT** Full Duplex
  - Collision Detection and Random Backup Algorithm
    - Was considered “state of the art”
    - Was complex!
    - Had interoperability issues!
      - Was inherently unfair to MACs that waited after carrier detect
      - Standard compliant MAC did not work well!
  - Is for LAN and “single tiered” networks
  - Ethernet “switches” are L2/L3 packet store and forward devices
    - Some have complex scheduling algorithms
    - There is no CSMA/CD MAC in Full Duplex Ethernet switches
- ◆ RPR MAC is required to provide “fair” access to the shared media

# Fairness Criteria

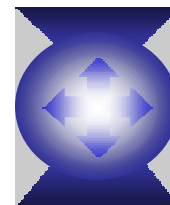
---



- ◆ **Fairness  $\neq$  Equality**
- ◆ The MAC is responsible for supporting “fair” access to media
- ◆ Fair allocation of bandwidth is “proportional” or “weighted”
  - Subscribers (customers) can expect to get a fair proportion of “available” bandwidth
  - Available BW can be fairly distributed among SLAs
  - This does not preclude guaranteed bandwidth services with guaranteed jitter and delay
- ◆ Fair delay access to the ring
  - Access delays experienced by each subscriber is bounded and is node location independent
  - “Higher” SLAs experience “lower” delay

# Efficiency

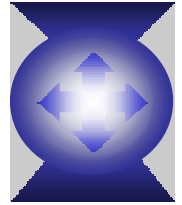
---



- ◆ High Link (Span) Utilization
  - Fairness algorithm should support high link utilization
  - Unused capacity can be reclaimed and distributed fairly to “bursty” traffic
  - “Bursty” and “guaranteed delay” traffic can co-exist
  
- ◆ Packet Loss in Transit
  - Discarding packets in transit wastes ring bandwidth
  - Fairness algorithm can minimize packet loss on the ring, by admitting only traffic that can reach its destination(s)

# Fairness Algorithm Complexity

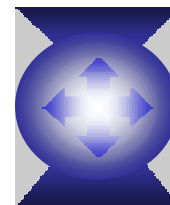
---



- ◆ Silicon Friendly
  - Reasonable gate-count
- ◆ No master node
  - Fully distributed algorithm
- ◆ Stable and Fast Convergence
  - 1-2 ring delay convergence time

# Summary

---



## ◆ Per-SLA

- $\text{BW allocated} = \text{BW reserved} + \text{a fair/weighted allocation of unused and available BW}$
- Fairness algorithm can monitor and signal available BW

## ◆ Weighted Bandwidth Allocation

- Based on SLA rates